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No. 7

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

January 14, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable YOUNG KIM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

PRIORITIZING PEACE AND SECURITY IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, on October 7, 2023, the people of Israel experienced the greatest terror attack in their nation's history. There were 1,200 people killed and 250 more were abducted in what was the most severe attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza, with at least a third of those believed to be dead. I was horrified by the atroc-

ities committed by Hamas on October 7, but I am encouraged by the reports that indicate that Israel and Hamas are closer than ever to reaching a cease-fire agreement that would return all remaining hostages held in Gaza to their families.

Still, the reality of the matter is whether a cease-fire is reached and whether that cease-fire lasts. We must act now.

I firmly believe in Israel's right to defend itself. It has been a critical ally in the region and has earned our support as it defends against threats from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Hamas in Gaza.

Still, the manner in which Israel defends itself matters. After 15 months of war, I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu has overseen a military campaign that has had catastrophic consequences not only for the people of Gaza but for his own people, as well.

As Israel's strongest ally, we have a responsibility to ensure that the legitimate anger felt by its citizens and the rest of the world after October 7 does not spiral into endless violence. What began as a war of defense has now devolved into a war of retribution and widespread destruction.

Over 47,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, though a recent study published by The Lancet estimates the death toll could be up to 40 percent higher. The majority of those killed are women and children.

Madam Speaker, 90 percent of Gaza's population is internally displaced and the threat of widespread famine has lingered for months. At least six newborns have recently died of hypothermia. The number of children killed in Gaza during the war exceeds the total number of children killed in conflicts worldwide over the last 4 years.

Thousands of children like Malek Al Kafarna are grappling with life-threatening injuries as a direct result of the war.

On October 24, 2023, Malek was waiting for food coupons at a market in a refugee camp when an airstrike hit and blew off his arm.

It bears repeating that Hamas is an evil terrorist organization that cynically exploits civilians and has little to no regard for life, even the lives of other Palestinians, but research shows that terrorist organizations have rarely been dismantled purely through military force.

Precisely because Hamas is such a threat, we must approach defeating them with a rational, evidence-based approach. Research by RAND shows that terrorist groups end through targeted intelligence operations or through a negotiated political settlement.

In fact, I feel the war in Gaza will act as a recruitment tool for Hamas and will create a new generation of fighters who will seek revenge. After over a year of fighting, Hamas is weakened but has not been eliminated nor have the remaining Israeli hostages been released.

The last time hostages were released was in November 2023, and they gained their freedom through diplomatic negotiations. What is urgently needed to bring an end to this brutal war is a diplomatic solution.

Both the Israeli Government and Hamas must agree to end the fighting, release the hostages, and flood the Gaza strip with desperately needed food and medical supplies. It is in Israel's security interest to have a stable neighbor and a Palestinian state.

Civil society has broken down completely in Gaza and the territory urgently needs a peacekeeping force to help restore order. This force, ideally composed of Arab states, will play a critical role now and in post-war Gaza.

Hamas cannot remain in power and the people of Gaza deserve new political leadership that will prioritize peace as they establish a new government. Ideally, that government will be

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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a reformed Palestinian authority empowered to both govern in the West Bank and Gaza.

The ultimate goal for all parties must be a lasting peace, and that can only be reached through a two-state solution.

We have the opportunity to change the trajectory of the lives of children like Malek. In 10 years, he will be 24. The choices we make in the coming weeks and months can either leave him desperate and hopeless, a prime candidate for recruitment from Hamas, or we can give him and the more than 1 million children living in Gaza the opportunity to grow up in a world that has prioritized peace and security. We must work toward ending this war and building a positive future for both Palestinians and Israelis.

CELEBRATING COACH LAMAR KIRKLEY'S 50-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Coach Lamar Kirkley's 50-year anniversary with the Savannah Country Day School.

Mr. Kirkley has spent the past five decades coaching and teaching students at Savannah Country Day. He had led the boys' basketball team as well as the boys' and girls' cross-country and tennis team.

Mr. Kirkley has earned a spot in the Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame and received the Teacher of the Year award in 2020 from the Exchange Club of Savannah. He also won the Savannah Morning News Coach of the Year award several times and across many different sports.

Mr. Kirkley was previously a stellar basketball player during his years at Armstrong State University. He has expressed that teaching and coaching go hand in hand, and he has excelled at both.

Mr. Kirkley has an excellent ability to relate to students, colleagues, players, and parents, and continues to excel in his career.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Kirkley on 50 impactful years at Savannah Country Day, and I thank him for what he has done for our three sons.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF VINCENT FORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Vincent Fort, who sadly passed away in December from cancer at the age of 68.

Mr. Fort was a former Democratic leader in the Georgia State Senate and a candidate for Atlanta mayor and Congress, who advocated for causes he believed in for many decades.

After his 1996 election to the 39th District in the State senate, Mr. Fort went on to be re-elected 10 times. Mr. Fort earned his undergraduate degree in history at Central Connecticut State College in 1978 and moved to Atlanta to

study African-American history shortly thereafter. There he wrote his thesis on the sit-in movement at the Atlanta University Center, where he later taught history.

Mr. Fort had several remarkable legislative achievements, including laws that took effect in 2002 targeting abusive lending practices.

Mr. Fort will forever be remembered as a remarkable man who was committed to leadership, justice, and service throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I can attest to this as I had the honor of serving with Vincent Fort in the Georgia State Senate. CONGRATULATING UNITED WAY'S WOMAN OF THE YEAR STACY JENNINGS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Stacy Jennings on being named United Way's 2025 Woman of the Year.

Ms. Jennings has been a longtime volunteer and the heart of community service in Savannah. She has spent 33 years with the United Way of the Coastal Empire, where she has served on the board, several committees, and helped fundraise.

Ms. Jennings is also the executive director of communications for the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Education. She has proven herself to be a dedicated leader and impactful server of the community by supporting families and students across the community within the school system.

Ms. Jennings' honorable achievement as United Way's Woman of the Year will be celebrated in March at the Women Who Rule event, hosted at the Savannah Convention Center.

She currently serves on the marketing committee and has not stopped her efforts to join new committees since she started at the United Way of the Coastal Empire.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Jennings on this incredible accomplishment and thank her for her dedicated service to the city of Savannah.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHERIFF CHARLES WILBERT "CHUNK" JONES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of former McIntosh County Sheriff, Charles Wilbert "Chunk" Jones.

Mr. Jones lived an honorable life, serving in the U.S. Army's D Company. He also served in Vietnam back in 1968.

Mr. Jones' career in law enforcement began in 1971 with the Brunswick Police Department and he later joined the city of Darien Police Department. After joining the city of Darien, Mr. Jones was promoted to the chief of police.

After his time at the Darien Police Department, Mr. Jones joined the Georgia State Patrol where he graduated as a State trooper. He also returned to his hometown and accepted the captain position with the city of Darien. He then won his first sheriff's election to serve the community from 1993 to 1998.

Mr. Jones was also a commercial shrimp fisherman and captain of his

shrimp boat, Lady Vanessa, which was named after his daughter.

Mr. Jones married his high school sweetheart, the late Brenda Marie Jones, with whom he shared three children: Christopher, Vanessa, and Felica.

Madam Speaker, today we honor his life and hold his family in our thoughts and prayers.

CONGRATULATING SYDNEY STERLACE WHO FINISHED THIRD ON "THE VOICE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible journey of Sydney Sterlace, who finished third on season 26 of "The Voice."

Sydney, a young singer from West Seneca, New York, in my district, has inspired not just our community but viewers across the country.

Her extraordinary talent was undeniable from an early age. With the support of her loving family, especially her mother, she began her singing journey at the age of 7, participating in local talent shows.

By the time she was 10, she won first place in the Erie County Fair talent competition.

Since then, Sydney has performed the national anthem at a Buffalo Bills football game, countless times for the Buffalo Bisons baseball team, and this year at a Buffalo Sabres hockey game.

She is also a regular performer at the annual Music is Art festival, organized by Robby Takac, one of the founding members of the Goo Goo Dolls, who is also from my district.

At just 16 years old, Sydney accomplished what so many dream of: a four-chair turn at her blind audition for "The Voice," and a run all the way to the finale of one of the biggest singing competitions in the world.

Over the course of this season, Sydney showed her incredible range and artistry, and her duet with Gwen Stefani, who also served as her coach while on the show, was the perfect way to cap off a season of unforgettable moments.

Throughout it all, Sydney had the endless support of her family, friends, and our entire community. From accompanying Sydney on her journey to California for the competition to welcoming her home at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport upon her return, her friends were always by her side to cheer her on, especially Kate, Lily, Izzy, Alannah, Holly, and Erin.

Sydney's success extends beyond "The Voice." Last year, she won a challenge promoted by Broadway Evolved, which led to a weeklong Broadway workshop with Tony-nominated actress Betsy Wolfe, but what stands out most is Sydney's humility and heart.

Sydney has made our entire community so proud with her talent, her hard